

training. When they come back to their local jurisdictions, it is a different matter. How the training is implemented is the important thing, and in many instances, it is totally disregarded. Common sense even goes out the window. If you have a county like Lancaster or a city like Lincoln where their police have not been involved in nearly as many fatal chases as in the City of Omaha, where the underlying reason for the chase was sometimes a minor traffic infraction, like a taillight out, somebody not coming to a full stop at a stop sign, and you have a cop from a jurisdiction where they do have the Dukes of Hazard mentality and they can chase them in these little cities, they like to do that. In fact, in Hastings, I think it was, the police chief's wife got killed when her car was struck by a cruiser at an intersection when the cruiser was chasing somebody who had made a squeal when they turned the corner or didn't stop at a stop sign. His wife was killed and that turned him against these unreasonable police chases. So you might have these little cops in these little towns with these big cars and big authority and they come roaring out of their county, where they have a Wild West mentality into a county where they've tried to civilize their law enforcement officers...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and the county into which the chase goes has no control over this desperado cop. You had a case where state troopers filed a complaint about Omaha police officers in their cruisers violating the speed limit when coming back from a cop's funeral in Hastings. They filed the complaint, so don't tell me that these cops always obey the law and they can be trusted and you can expand this authority and you don't have to worry about it. The public had better be glad there are people like me and Senator Hall and others who are concerned about the public's safety. We are not talking really about misdemeanors in allowing them to chase through all these adjoining counties, we are also talking about traffic infractions.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schmitt.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Madam Chairman, members of the body, I really wasn't going to rise to speak on this. I think it has had some very good debate, both ways this morning. Basically, I agree with what Senator Hall is saying with his amendment, also what Senator Chambers has said this morning, but I also don't support the amendment because the county lines, there are very